

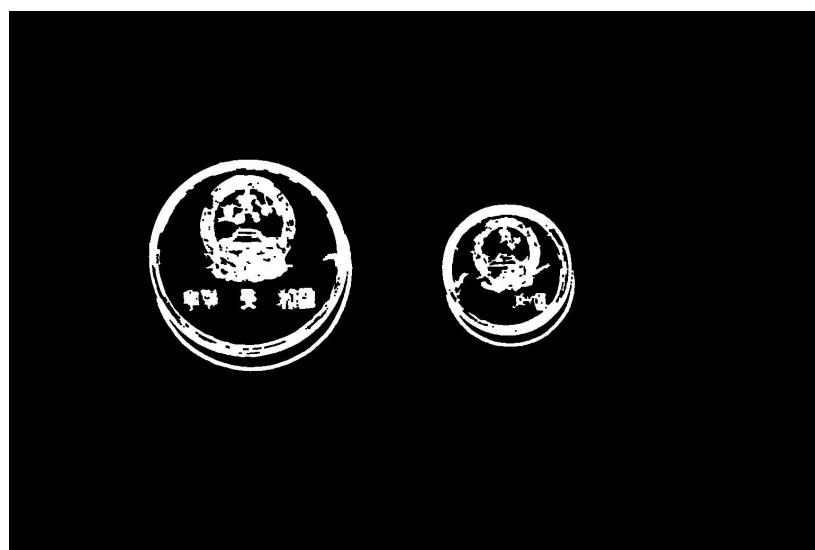
Hough transform for detecting coins.

Raw image:



Algorithm process:

1. At first, I got the image. Because my kernel is 3×3 , so I padded my image $(H+2) \times (W+2)$. Then I used median filter, Gaussian filter and connected component filter to smooth and clear the texture of the background. Then I used 2 kernel to get the vertical and horizontal gradients via Sobel operator for edge detection. Following picture is the edge detection picture:



```
01 | def TransformKernel(kernel):  
02 |     transform_kernel = kernel.copy()  
03 |     for i in range(kernel.shape[0]):
```

```

04         for j in range(kernel.shape[1]):
05             transform_kernel[i][j] =
06             kernel[kernel.shape[0]-i-1][kernel.shape[1]-j-1]
07     return transform_kernel
08
09 def GetPaddedImage(image):
10     imagePadded = np.asarray([[0 for x in range(0, image.shape[1]+2)]
11     for y in range(0, image.shape[0]+2)], dtype=np.uint8)
12     imagePadded[1:(imagePadded.shape[0]-1),
13     1:(imagePadded.shape[1]-1)] = image
14     return imagePadded
15
16 def Convolution(image, kernel):
17     kernel = TransformKernel(kernel)
18     imagePadded = GetPaddedImage(image)
19     imageConvolution = np.zeros(image.shape, dtype=np.float32)
20     for i in range(1, imagePadded.shape[0]-1):
21         for j in range(1, imagePadded.shape[1]-1):
22             s = 0.0
23             for m in range(kernel.shape[0]):
24                 for n in range(kernel.shape[1]):
25                     s += kernel[m][n] * imagePadded[i+m-1][j+n-1]
26             imageConvolution[i-1][j-1] = abs(s)
27     mx = float(imageConvolution.max())
28     if mx > 1e-8:
29         imageConvolution /= mx
30     return imageConvolution
31
32 def PerformSobel(image):
33     img = image.copy()
34     if img.ndim == 3:
35         img = cv2.cvtColor(img, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
36     img = cv2.bilateralFilter(img, d=9, sigmaColor=60, sigmaSpace=60)
37     img = cv2.medianBlur(img, ksize=5)
38     img = cv2.GaussianBlur(img, (3, 3), 0)
39
40     kernelY = np.asarray([[ 1,  2,  1],
41                           [ 0,  0,  0],
42                           [-1, -2, -1]])
43     kernelX = np.asarray([[ -1,  0,  1],
44                           [ -2,  0,  2],
45                           [ -1,  0,  1]])
46     gradientY = cv2.filter2D(img, cv2.CV_32F, kernelY)
47     gradientX = cv2.filter2D(img, cv2.CV_32F, kernelX)

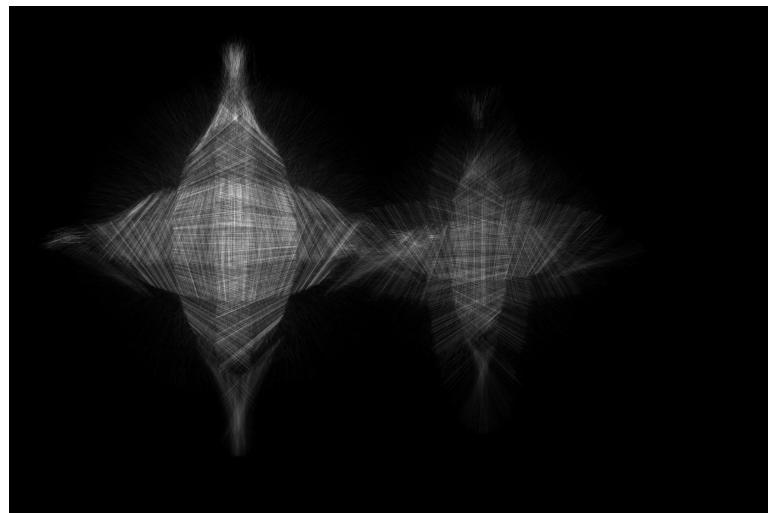
```

```

48
49     theta = np.arctan2(gradientY, gradientX)
50     mag = np.sqrt(gradientX**2 + gradientY**2)
51     m = float(mag.max())
52     if m > 1e-8:
53         mag = mag / m
54     return mag, theta

```

2. After getting edge picture of the image, I used NMS to reduce the number of the edge of the coins in the picture and defined a function accumulator to collect votes for potential circle centers using the Hough transform technique. For each edge, I utilized its gradient direction to determine possible centers at multiple radius. The voting process considered both the gradient direction and its opposite direction to account for circle edge orientation. The accumulator space was structured as a 3D array(X, Y, radius) where each cell represents the voting score for a specific center position and radius.



```

001 def HoughCircles(image, edge_mask, expect_brighter_inside=True, r_scale=(0.065,
0.20)):
002     rows, cols = image.shape[:2]
003     mag, theta_map = PerformSobel(image)
004
005     r_min = max(10, int(r_scale[0] * min(rows, cols)))
006     r_max = max(r_min+1, int(r_scale[1] * min(rows, cols)))
007     radius = list(range(r_min, r_max+1))
008     R = len(radius)
009
010     accumulator = np.zeros((rows, cols, R), dtype=np.float32)
011     edge01 = (edge_mask > 0).astype(np.uint8)
012     ys, xs = np.nonzero(edge01)
013     img_gray = image if image.ndim == 2 else cv2.cvtColor(image, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)

```

```
008     for idx_r, rr in enumerate(radius):
009         for y, x in zip(ys, xs):
010             base = float(theta_map[y, x])
011             st, ct = math.sin(base), math.cos(base)
012             w = float(mag[y, x]) + 1e-6
013
014             a1f = y + (rr * st); b1f = x + (rr * ct)
015             if 0.0 <= a1f < rows-1 and 0.0 <= b1f < cols-1:
016                 if _polarity_vote_allowed(img_gray, y, x, st, ct, rr, +1,
expect_brighter_inside):
017                     bilinear_splat(accumulator, a1f, b1f, idx_r, w)
018
019             a2f = y - (rr * st); b2f = x - (rr * ct)
020             if 0.0 <= a2f < rows-1 and 0.0 <= b2f < cols-1:
021                 if _polarity_vote_allowed(img_gray, y, x, st, ct, rr, -1,
expect_brighter_inside):
022                     bilinear_splat(accumulator, a2f, b2f, idx_r, w)
023
024     return accumulator, radius
```

3. After get the radius and center positions, I found a coin included many detection circles. So I add a center merging mechanism and minimum center distance constraint to avoid the problem. The merging process combines overlapping circles by replacing lower-scoring duplicates with higher-scoring ones when their centers are too close. Additionally, a final pruning step ensures that all detected circles maintain a minimum center distance, preventing multiple detections on the same coin while preserving genuine adjacent coins.

```
01 def FilterCircles(accumulator, radius, t_rel=0.30, min_abs=2,
02                     dr_frac=0.50,
03                     keep_top=8,
04                     tol_frac=0.055, cov_thr=0.20,
05                     center_min_dist=28,
06                     center_merge_frac=0.80,
07                     debug=False):
08
09     H, W, R = accumulator.shape
10
11     cand = []
12
13     for r_idx, r in enumerate(radius):
```

```

06     sl = accumulator[:, :, r_idx]
07     m = float(sl.max())
08     if m <= 0:
09         continue
10     t = max(t_rel * m, min_abs)
11     lmax = local_max_mask(sl)
12     ys, xs = np.where((sl >= t) & (lmax > 0))
13     for y, x in zip(ys, xs):
14         cand.append((float(sl[y, x]), int(y), int(x), int(r_idx)))
15
16     cand.sort(reverse=True, key=lambda z: z[0])
17
18     circles = []
19     circle_scores = []
20     taken = np.zeros_like(accumulator, dtype=np.uint8)
21
22     for score, y, x, r_idx in cand:
23         if taken[y, x, r_idx]:
24             continue
25
26         yc_f, xc_f, rc_f = refine_peak(accumulator, radius, y, x, r_idx)
27
28         cov = circle_support_ratio(yc_f, xc_f, rc_f, n_samples=180, tol=max(2.5,
29         tol_frac * rc_f))
30         if cov < cov_thr:
31             continue
32
33         merged = False
34         for k, (py, px, pr) in enumerate(circles):
35             d = ((yc_f - py)**2 + (xc_f - px)**2) ** 0.5
36             if d < center_merge_frac * max(pr, rc_f):
37                 if score > circle_scores[k]:
38                     circles[k] = (yc_f, xc_f, rc_f)
39                     circle_scores[k] = score
40                     merged = True
41                     break
42         if merged:
43             continue
44
45         circles.append((yc_f, xc_f, rc_f))
46         circle_scores.append(score)
47
48         yy = int(round(yc_f)); xx = int(round(xc_f)); rr_pix = int(round(rc_f))
49         y0 = max(0, yy - int(0.60 * rr_pix)); y1 = min(H, yy + int(0.60 * rr_pix) + 1)

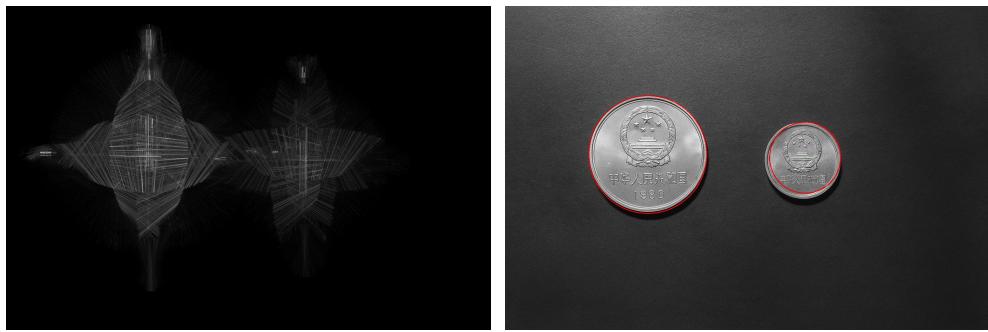
```

```

28     x0 = max(0, xx - int(0.60 * rr_pix)); x1 = min(W, xx + int(0.60 * rr_pix) + 1)
29     r0 = max(0, r_idx - max(1, int(dr_frac * rr_pix)))
30     r1 = min(R, r_idx + max(1, int(dr_frac * rr_pix)) + 1)
31     taken[y0:y1, x0:x1, r0:r1] = 1
32
33     if len(circles) >= keep_top:
34         break
35
36     pruned = []
37     for cy, cx, r in circles:
38         ok = True
39         for py, px, pr in pruned:
40             if ((cy - py)**2 + (cx - px)**2) ** 0.5 < max(center_min_dist, 0.30 * pr):
41                 ok = False
42                 break
43             if ok:
44                 pruned.append((cy, cx, r))
45
46     return pruned
47
48
49 def DetectCircles(img_gray, edges, r_scale=(0.065, 0.20), expect_brighter_inside=True,
50                  **filter_kwargs):
51     global _EDGE01_FOR_VERIFY, _DIST_FOR_VERIFY
52
53     edge01 = (edges > 0).astype(np.uint8)
54     inv = (1 - edge01) * 255
55     _EDGE01_FOR_VERIFY = edge01
56     _DIST_FOR_VERIFY = cv2.distanceTransform(inv, cv2.DIST_L2, 3)
57
58     accumulator, radius = HoughCircles(img_gray, edges, expect_brighter_inside,
59                                         r_scale=r_scale)
60
61     save_hough_gray(accumulator.max(axis=2), 'hough_space_max.png')
62     save_hough_gray(accumulator.sum(axis=2), 'hough_space_sum.png')
63
64     circles = FilterCircles(accumulator, radius, **filter_kwargs)
65
66     return circles

```

4. At last, visualizing the result.



```
01 if __name__ == "__main__":
02     img = cv2.imread('./coins.png', 0)
03
04     mag, theta = PerformSobel(img)
05     nz = mag[mag > 0]
06     thr = np.quantile(nz, 0.93) if nz.size else 1.0
07     edges01 = (mag >= thr).astype(np.uint8)
08     edges = remove_small_components(edges01, min_size=600, connectivity=8)
09     edges = cv2.morphologyEx(edges, cv2.MORPH_CLOSE, np.ones((3,3), np.uint8),
10     iterations=1)
11     cv2.imwrite('edges.png', edges)
12
13     found = DetectCircles(
14         img, edges,
15         r_scale=(0.060, 0.22),
16         t_rel=0.33, min_abs=3,
17         tol_frac=0.040, cov_thr=0.26,
18         keep_top=4, dr_frac=0.28,
19         center_min_dist=40,
20         debug=True
21     )
22
23     result = cv2.cvtColor(img, cv2.COLOR_GRAY2BGR)
24     if found:
25         print(f"[INFO] Found {len(found)} circle(s):")
26         for (cy, cx, r) in found:
27             print(f"  center={({cx:.2f},{cy:.2f}}), radius={r:.2f}")
28             cv2.circle(result, (int(round(cx)), int(round(cy))), int(round(r)),
29             (0, 0, 255), 2)
30             cv2.circle(result, (int(round(cx)), int(round(cy))), 2, (0, 255, 0),
31             -1)
32     else:
33         print("[WARN] No circles.")
34     cv2.imwrite('houghCoin.png', result)
```